

List of observations and conditions and practices or purported conditions and practices at Mitchellville Training School for Girls reported by members of the Penal and Correctional Systems Study Committee on June 29, 1972 (as recalled by staff) and by letter to the Legislative Service Bureau:

1. The girls like Mrs. Carter and most staff personnel. Campus is attractive, well kept, and appears adequate.

2. There is no separate care for sick girls outside of "lock up".

3. "Lock up" is abused and time spent there is excessive.

4. A change of personnel is needed for the "lock up" and limited to eight-hour shifts.

5. The laundry should be closed. Girls iron from wet to dry for three hours without breaks or talking and launder staff clothing.

6. A G.E.D. must be offered at the school. No vocational or prevocational courses are offered.

7. Additional staff is required and is not being obtained under the Merit System.

8. Highly structural environment should be relaxed gradually as the girls stay lengthens. The girls do not know how honors or points are lost.

9. A canteen should be provided.

10. Parents should visit more frequently and be involved in the program as in Eldora.

11. Girls should be able to write letters more frequently and to a wider range of persons and mail should not be read.

12. Silence rules are not reasonable--at meals, between classes.

13. More freedom to walk campus should be allowed.

14. Telephone calls should be allowed to parents, either at girls expense or collect, and to attorneys.

15. Choice of clothing should be allowed as a reward.

16. Black girls are not allowed to wear "naturals".

17. Rules are not uniform from housemother to housemother.

18. Ping pong tables and other recreation equipment are not allowed to be used.

19. Staff does not eat with girls. The food is good but the girls are gaining excessive weight.

20. Posting dates on bulletin boards of individual menstrual cycles gives too much public knowledge of personal matter.

21. Physicals for girls are done in degrading manner and should be done by R.N. or doctor.

22. Girls are locked in rooms in early evening and no way to get attention if they become ill.

23. Unreasonable swimming pool rules.

24. Church attendance is required, but clergy of various denominations are not available.

25. No off campus passes.

26. Need follow up after release.

27. Girls cannot read or listen to news.

28. Movement between building is by marching in formation.

29. Television programs selected by housemother, watch color set in black and white. Girls sit on floor even though chairs are available in room.